

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 OMB-01 /040 W

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R 181620Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2242

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 553

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAG: PFOR MPOL UR DA

SUBJ: DANISH-SOVIET EXCHANGE ON BALTIC MANEUVERS

1) DURING FEBURARY 17 CALL ON MFA PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY
EIGIL JORGENSEN, HE RECOUNTED A THREE-HOUR CONVERSATION HE
HAD HAD WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, NIKOLAI G. EGORYTCHEV,
UPON THE LATTER'S RETURN TO POST ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO FROM
MOSCOW. AMBASSADOR EGORYTCHEV APPARENTLY CRITICIZED
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PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY DANISH CHIEF OF DEFENSE, GENERAL

BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER, REGARDING INCREASED SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE BALTIC AREA. AMBASSADOR EGORYTCHEV ATTRIBUTED BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER'S EXPRESSIONS TO THE LATTER'S WISH TO MAXIMIZE FUNDING LEVELS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT. THE AMBASSADOR CHARACTERIZED SUCH STATEMENTS AS HARMFUL TO SOVIET-DANISH RELATIONS, DETENTE, THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI, ETC.

2) JORGENSEN SAID HE COUNTERED AMBASSADOR EGORYTCHEV'S DEMARCHE BY SUPPORTING THE DEFENSE CHIEF'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND EXPRESSING SERIOUS DANISH CONCERN OVER ENCROACHING SOVIET NAVAL AND AIR ACTIVITIES. JORGENSEN REMARKED TO ME THAT THE DANES ARE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED OVER FLIGHTS BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT AT THE VERY EDGE OF DANISH NATIONAL AIR SPACE.

3) COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT THE FEBRUARY 18 EDITION OF THE COMMUNIST DAILY LAND AND FOL REPEATED THE SUBSTANCE OF EGORYTCHEV'S CHARGE (WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION) THAT RECENT PUBLICITY GIVEN BY DANISH DEFENSE PROPONENTS TO INCREASED SOVIET BALTIC ACTIVITY HAS NO SUBSTANCE EXCEPT AS A HOPEFUL STIMULUS TO INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING.
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